



KENTUCKY HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

JULY 2008 – FEBRUARY 2009



TELECHECK:
1-800-245-4263

Fish & Wildlife:
1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov
Dr. Jonathan Gassett, Commissioner

Report Game Violations:
1-800-25-ALERT

Photo © Gene Boaz

July 2008 – February 2009



KENTUCKY HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a **SUMMARY** of the laws regarding hunting and trapping. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources **BEFORE** engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife produces separate hunting regulation booklets for spring turkey and squirrel, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting. Full season information for dove and early waterfowl hunting is available in mid-August. Regular waterfowl season laws are available in early November. Call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays, look for a copy of these regulation guides where hunting licenses are sold, or log on to fw.ky.gov.

4 GENERAL INFORMATION / TELECHECK

19 DEER HUNTING

28 ELK HUNTING

32 FALL TURKEY HUNTING

34 SMALL GAME & FURBEARERS

39 QUOTA HUNTS

47 PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

61 DEFINITIONS & INDEX



Commonwealth of Kentucky

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1st District: Charles W. Martin, chm., Wickliffe

2nd District: Dale Franklin, Morgantown

3rd District: James "Tony" Brown Sr.,
Brandenburg

4th District: Dr. James R. Angel, Campbellsville

5th District: Dr. James R. Rich, sec., Taylor Mill

6th District: R.G. Toler, Winchester

7th District: Doug Hensley, vice chm., Hazard

8th District: Rick D. Storm, Carlisle

9th District: Taylor Orr, London

Department of

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Commissioner: Dr. Jonathan Gasset

Deputy Commissioner: Hank Patton

Wildlife Director: Dr. Karen Alexy

Fisheries Director: Benjy Kinman

Law Enforcement Director: Col. Bob Milligan

Information & Education Director: Tim Slone

Administrative Services Director: Darin Moore

Public Affairs & Policy Director: Lynn Garrison

Engineering Director: Charles Bush

HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE

Editor: Hayley Lynch

Art/Design Director: Adrienne Yancy

Contributors: Denise Boebinger, Tina Brunjes,
Dan Crank, Steven Dobey, Tia Edwards, John
Morgan, Laura Patton, Ben Robinson, Gary
Sprandel, Brenda Ward-Hill, Keith Wethington
and David Yancy



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is funded

through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registration fees. It receives no general fund state tax dollars. The Department manages, regulates, enforces and promotes responsible use of all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, an agency of the Commerce Cabinet, supports an annual economic impact to Kentucky of \$4.7 billion.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Eleven-year-old Cody Tschudi is like many kids his age. He loves to play video games and soccer. His parents have busy jobs that make it difficult to spend time outdoors. But with help from his grandfather, Cody took his first deer last October.

Hearing about kids like Cody reminds me of why we come to work every day. It's not easy to get today's kids outside. School commitments, soccer practice, cheerleading, video games – there is an endless list of demands on kids' time. Yet research shows that if kids don't get involved in the outdoors at a young age, they are far less likely to ever begin. That's where the department comes in.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources places no minimum age on youth hunters and trappers.



We provide special youth-only hunting and trapping seasons, as well as reduced-priced licenses and permits for kids. We did away with licensing requirements for kids under the age of 12 and made our hunter education requirements more flexible, while still keeping safety our top priority. Our conservation camps and school programs introduce thousands of kids to the outdoors every year.

These are all important steps. But the real work is in your hands. Kids like Cody are the future of fish and wildlife resources. I hope you'll join thousands of Kentucky families and introduce a kid to hunting and trapping this year. Once they're hooked, they may never go back to video games.

— Dr. Jonathan Gasset

BASIC RULES FOR HUNTING

1. You can NOT hunt or retrieve game on someone else's land without permission.
2. Unless you are license exempt, you must buy and carry afield the right hunting license and permits for the kind of hunting you do.
3. You can only hunt when the season is open for that species. Your hunting equipment must be legal. You can take no more game than the daily or season bag limits allow.
4. Anyone hunting where and when a gun deer or elk season is open must wear hunter orange on the head, chest and back, visible to others at all times.
5. All hunters born after January 1, 1975 must pass a hunter education course before hunting on any land besides land they own, unless they have a valid temporary hunter education exemption permit. Kids do not have to take the class until they are 12 years old. See page 15 for other youth hunter requirements.

All hunters should read the General Information/Telecheck section of this guide, in addition to the section for the game they are hunting, before going afield. Public land hunters should also read the Public Land Hunting section.

**HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND IS A PRIVILEGE.
ALWAYS GET PERMISSION AND THANK THE LANDOWNER.**



✧ KENTUCKY DEPT. OF

FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES ✧

WHO WE ARE

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is an agency of the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet. Our nine-member commission is nominated by Kentucky sportsmen and sportswomen and appointed by the governor. This commission appoints the department's commissioner.

We employ about 500 people full-time, including Conservation Officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, conservation educators, and information technology, public relations, customer service and administrative professionals.

Our Headquarters is located in Frankfort, but we work with landowners, hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts statewide.

WHAT WE DO

We conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities.

Every year, we:

- Enforce hunting, fishing and boating laws across Kentucky for resource protection and public safety.
- Manage about 1 million acres of public land and water for the benefit of all fish and wildlife species.
- Stock more than 4 million fish in public waters.
- Build and maintain public boat ramps, shooting ranges and bank fishing access areas.
- Assist about 2,000 private landowners with fish and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Inform and educate more than 400,000 kids and adults through education and outreach programs.

HOW YOU HELP

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife receives no money from the state's General Fund.

You provide our agency's funding every time you:

- Buy a hunting or fishing license
- Buy a firearm, ammunition, or fishing or archery equipment
- Pay your boat registration fee
- Buy fuel for your boat

